

The monthly FEMA *Children & Disasters Newsletter* is a resource for youth preparedness practitioners, educators, parents, children, and teens. It shares timely research, examples of successful youth preparedness programs, safety tips, and resources related to youth preparedness. To subscribe to the *Children & Disasters Newsletter*, please visit www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness.

CHILDREN & DISASTERS NEWSLETTER



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The Children and Disasters Team wishes you all a happy and healthy New Year! In the first issue of the Children and Disasters Newsletter of 2014, we have a number of resources, activities and motivational news stories to share with you. Sandy Hook parents share an inspiring message about how other parents can prepare their children for and protect them from disasters and two young boys excite others with their involvement in sharing an important preparedness message. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) offers a Preparedness Checklist for Pediatric Practices and the American Red Cross introduces "Zombie Apocalypse Parties." Keep reading to learn more!

FEMA YOUTH PREPAREDNESS COUNCIL APPLICATION NOW OPEN

FEMA is looking for youth leaders between the ages of 12 and 17 who are dedicated to public service, who are making a difference in their communities and who want to expand their impact as ambassadors for youth disaster preparedness.

To apply, visit the [FEMA Youth Preparedness Council website](#). Applications must be received by February 24, 2014, 11:59 p.m. EST.

SIX-YEAR-OLD USES TORNADO PREPAREDNESS TIPS TO SAVE HIS FAMILY

Brevin Hunter, a 6-year-old from Washington, Illinois, became a hero to his family when his persistent warnings to take cover from a tornado resulted in saving their lives.

Brevin had learned in school how to prepare himself and his family in the event of a tornado. When he heard the tornado sirens, he urged his family to head to their basement and take cover from the storm. His family thought the sirens were just a drill because of the calm skies above. However, his mom ultimately conceded and had the rest of the family head to the basement with a mattress for protection.

The tornado hit Brevin's home, destroying several nearby homes in its path as well. Brevin's mom, Lisa Hunter, credits her son for her family's safety and admires her son for his persistence.

The Children and Disasters team commends Brevin on applying his preparedness training and keeping his family safe! View the [full story](#) to learn more about Brevin's experience.

ACTIVITY SPOTLIGHT: ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE PARTY

The Red Cross Youth and Young Adults unit has developed project-planning [activity guides](#) designed to help youth volunteers plan projects that focus on core services of the Red Cross mission, like blood services, fundraising or preparedness projects.

The Red Cross also offers activity guides that include instructions for hosting a "[Zombie Apocalypse Party](#)," which helps youth educate and prepare their school and/or community for an "impending zombie apocalypse" in a fun but informative way.

Before you start planning your "Zombie Apocalypse Party," contact your [local Red Cross chapter or station](#) for assistance or email youthinvolvement@redcross.org for more information.

SANDY HOOK PARENTS INSPIRE OTHERS TO TAKE ACTION TOWARDS PROTECTING AND PREPARING CHILDREN

With the anniversary of the Sandy Hook Elementary tragedy only a month ago, Save the Children shares a powerful message from Newtown, Connecticut parents Alissa and Robbie Parker, who lost their 6-year-old daughter, Emilie, in the shooting. In the video, [Sandy Hook Parents: Emergency Plans Matter](#), the Parkers discuss how to develop more robust emergency plans and remind us that as long as our little ones are alive and well, there are things we can do to better protect them.

To learn more about how to prepare children for and protect them from disasters and to view a variety of emergency preparedness resources and information, such as the [Disaster Checklist](#), visit the [Save the Children website](#).

PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST FOR PEDIATRIC PRACTICES

Based on concepts and information in the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) [Pediatric Preparedness Resource Kit](#), the [Preparedness Checklist for Pediatric Practices](#) offers steps that pediatricians and their practice staff can take to improve office preparedness. Pediatricians need to be ready to provide care for their patients even when normal operations are disrupted.

This checklist will allow for advanced preparedness planning that can mitigate risks, ensure financial stability, strengthen the patient-centered medical home and help promote the health of children in the

community. The checklist also offers strategies on keeping vaccines safe during an emergency, as well as steps to promote professional self-care.

For additional information on disaster preparedness and response, see the [AAP Children & Disasters site](#). If you have any questions or to request complimentary printed copies of the checklist, please e-mail DisasterReady@aap.org.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: CAMP NOAH

Camp Noah is a locally hosted program for elementary school-age children whose communities have been impacted by disaster. Camp Noah provides a safe, caring and fun environment where children build resiliency skills within the familiarity of their own communities, using a proven curriculum designed to help children process their disaster and/or trauma experience through creative activities and play.

What originally began as a response to flooding in the Red River Valley (North Dakota and Minnesota) in 1997 has grown into a nationally recognized program for children whose communities have been impacted by natural and human-caused disasters. During the past 16 years, Camp Noah has been hosted in 25 states and Puerto Rico.

Camp Noah is owned and operated on a national basis by Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota. To learn more about Camp Noah and how you can host, attend or volunteer at a camp, visit the [Camp Noah website](#) or email campnoah@lssmn.org.

WINNER OF 2013 DISCOVERY EDUCATION 3M YOUNG SCIENTIST CHALLENGE INVENTS SUBSTITUTE FOR TRADITIONAL SANDBAGS

Peyton Robertson, an 11-year-old from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, was announced the winner of the [2013 Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge](#) for his progressive “Sandless Operational Sandbag” (SOS) design.

Peyton’s innovative sandbag design, a perfect blend of salt and expandable polymer, allows for easier storage than traditional sandbags and effectively keeps water out during a flood. After being soaked in water, the mixture in the bag enlarges, creating a barrier to flood water. Peyton goes into more detail about his sandbag design in his 2013 Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge [entry video](#).

His hope is that his new sandbag design will help to reduce flood damage in the future. Keep up the awesome work, Peyton!

Visit the [Young Scientist Challenge website](#) to learn more about the challenge or to apply!

CONTACT US

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Online at <http://www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness>

Disclaimer: The reader recognizes that the federal government provides links and informational data on various disaster preparedness resources and events and does not endorse any non-federal events, entities, organizations, services or products. Please let us know about other events and services related to youth preparedness that could be included in future newsletters by contacting FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov.

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